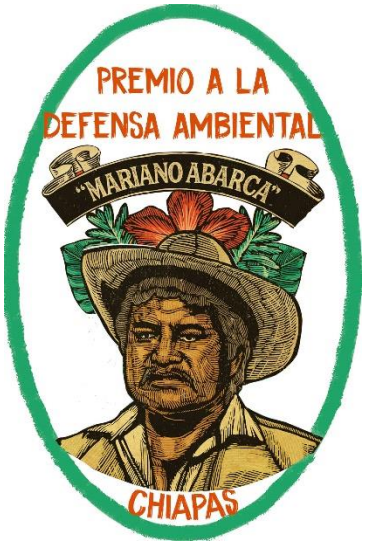



# FIRST RECOGNITION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE IN CHIAPAS 2019

## "MARIANO ABARCA"

This November 27, 2019, marks the 10th anniversary of the murder of Mariano Abarca Roblero, an environmentalist who defended Human Rights and the Rights of Nature in his hometown of Chicomuselo, Chiapas, Mexico. Mariano was killed for denouncing the socio-environmental impacts caused by the Canadian mining company Blackfire Exploration, also in his murder. Since then, his family and various organizations have engaged in a long process before the Mexican and Canadian governments to demand justice and punishment to those guilty for: the proven corruption of the company, the actions and omissions of the Canadian Embassy that may have contributed to Mariano's murder, as well as references to the Mexican government's apparent impunity. They also have ongoing processes before the Canadian courts and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

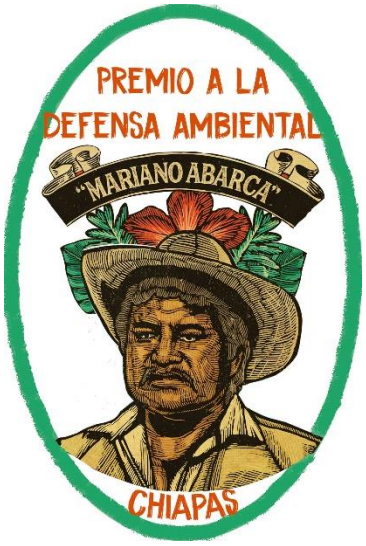
Despite Mariano Abarca's murder, throughout the country, and particularly in the state of Chiapas, many other defenders continue to fight and demonstrate for the defense of the Earth and the Territory, for Life and for Mother Earth against the policies, politicians and megaprojects, who in violently appropriating natural goods ultimately threaten the culture and identity of indigenous peoples, peasants, as well as the life of the urban population.

In this context, the Convocants commemorate the **First Recognition for Environmental Defense in Chiapas 2019 "Mariano Abarca"** as part of the Tenth Anniversary of mourning Mariano Abarca, with the purpose of thanking, recognizing and making visible other collective and organized struggles of those who, do not cease to defend life, the environment and collective rights that are, after all, for the benefit of Humanity. Mariano sowed this spirit in the hearts of the resistance

The "**Mariano Abarca Award**" 2019 will be presented to the indigenous organization of the **Movement in Defense of Life and Territory** (MODEVITE), who have a presence in 11 municipalities in the state of Chiapas. This **Recognition** will be delivered on November 27 of the current year at the Auditorium of Fine Arts of the Historic Center of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico in the company of representatives of national and international organizations and convening networks, as well as the Abarca family.

The "**Mariano Abarca Award"** will also provide an important occasion to share the experiences of other collective struggles in defense of the Earth and the Territory. And so, on the same day we will hold the **Forum of Environmental Defense in Chiapas "Mariano Abarca"**, with the participation of peoples representing the ongoing resistance processes in the North, Costa and Altos areas of the State of Chiapas. We will also learn a bit about

the resistance being carried out in the Montaña and Costa Chica of the State of Guerrero, and, panelists and specialists will share an analysis of the situation of violence against environmental defenders in order to enrich the collective exchange Agenda.




# FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE IN CHIAPAS "MARIANO ABARCA"

**November 27th, Auditorium "Bellas Artes", Historical Centre, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México**

## PRESENTATION OF THE RECOGNITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE IN CHIAPAS. "MARIANO ABARCA"

**PROGRAM**
**(Free Entry)**
**Coffee, Artesan Crafts and Publications for Sale**

**10.00 am Welcome Remarks**
*Moderator: Gustavo Castro (Otros Mundos AC/Chiapas, México)*
**Music from the group, "In-Fusion"**

**PANEL 1 EXPERIENCES FROM STRUGGLES IN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE IN CHIAPAS**
**10.10–12:00 am**
*Moderator: Celia Flor (Otros Mundos AC. Chiapas. México)*

**- Movimiento por la Defensa de la Vida y del Territorio (MODEVITE)**
**- Frente Popular por la Defensa del Soconusco "20 de Junio" (FPDS)**
**- Somos La Maya, San Cristóbal de Las Casas.**
**- Zoques en Defensa de la Vida y el Territorio (Zodevite)**
**- Comunidad Pascacio Gamboa, Ixtacomitán.**
**- Concejo Regional de Autoridades Agrarias en Defensa del Territorio (CRAADT),** por Adelaido Mendoza Martínez, Comisariado de Bienes Comunales de Mixtecapa y Presidente del CRAADT

**Questions and Answers**
**Music from the group *"In-Fusión"***

**PANEL 2 *LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND THE CURRENT SITUATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS***
**12:15-14:00**
*Moderator: Eleazar Gómez (Otros Mundos AC/Chiapas, México)*

**- Analysis of the criminalization of human rights and environmental defenders in Mexico.**
*Por: Amnesty International*
**- Análisis del Mecanismo de Protección a Defensores de Derechos Humanos y Periodistas.**
*Por: Edgar Cortés del Instituto Mexicano de Derechos Humanos y Democracia (IMDHD)*
**- The situation of human rights and environmental defenders in Chiapas**

*Por El Movimiento Sueco por la Reconciliación (SWEFOR)*

**Questions and Answers**
**Music by *"In-Fusión"***

**PANEL 3 The paradigmatic case of Mariano Abarca, International Justice and the Canadian government facing the courts.**
**16:00-18:00**
*Moderator: Libertad Díaz Vera*

**- Canadian mining companies in Mexico**
*Por Miguel Angel Mijangos Leal (Procesos Integrales para la Autogestión de los Pueblos -PIAP AC/REMA)*
**- Mariano Abarca and the origins of resistance against Blackfire**
*Por miembros de la Familia Abarca: viuda, hijos y hermano.*
**- The first steps of the legal process against Blackfire**
*Por Jen Moore (Institute for Policy Studies -IPS-, Programa sobre la Economía Global, Estados Unidos)*
**- The judicial process against the Canadian government in the courts**
*Por Kirsten Francescone (MiningWatch, Canadá)*

**Questions and Answers**
**Music by *"In-Fusión"***

**PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST RECOGNITION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE IN CHIAPAS 2019 "MARIANO ABARCA"**
**18:15-19:00**
*Moderator: Gustavo Castro (Otros Mundos AC/Chiapas, México)*

**With the participation of the Abarca family and some delegates and delegates of the national and international networks and organizations that will attend and organize, convene and recognize the "Mariano Abarca Award" 2019 for the Defense of the Environment.**

**Closing Remarks and Toast**

## CONVOCAMOS Y RECONOCEMOS:

1. MINING JUSTICE ALLIANCE (MJA), CANADA
2. FRIENDS OF THE EARTH- LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN
3. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
4. MINING JUSTICE ACTION COMMITTEE (MJAC), CANADA
5. COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA (CDHAL), CANADA
6. REGIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRARIAN AUTHORITIES IN TERRITORIAL DEFENSE (CRAADT), MÉXICO
7. COUNCIL OF CANADIANS, CANADA
8. CIVIC COUNCIL OF POPULAR AND INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN HONDURAS (COPINH)
9. RIGHTS ACTION, CANADA AND USA
10. ENTREPUEBLOS, CATALUÑA
11. SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA (PSAC)
12. HUMANITARTIAN FUND, UNITED STEELWORKERS (USW), CANADA
13. COMMON FRONTIERS, CANADA
14. MARIANO ABARCA ENVIRONMENTALIST FUND (FAMA), MÉXICO
15. DUE PROCESS LEGAL FUND, USA
16. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL LIBERTIES MONITERING GROUP (ICLMG), CANADA
17. MEXICAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY (IMDHD)
18. INTER PARES, CANADA
19. KAIROS: CANADIAN ECUMENICAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES, CANADA
20. MININGWATCH, CANADA
21. MOVIMIENTO MESOAMERICANO CONTRA EL MODELO EXTRACTIVO MINERO (M4)
22. OBSERVATORIO DE MULTINACIONALES EN AMÉRICA LATINA – PAZ CON DIGNIDAD (OMAL), PAÍS VASCO
23. OTROS MUNDOS CHIAPAS, MÉXICO
24. INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES – GLOBAL ECONOMY PROGRAM (IPS), USA
25. MINING INJUSTICE SOLIDARITY NETWORK (MISN), CANADA
26. ACTION NETWORK ABOUT INSECTICIDES AND THEIR ALTERNATIVES IN LATIN AMERICA (RAP-AL)
27. ACTION NETWORK ABOUT INSECTICIDES AND THEIR ALTERNATIVES IN MEXICO (RAPAM).
28. NETWORK IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA (NISGUA), USA
29. LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK AGAINST THE MONOCROPPING OF TREES (RECOMA)
30. MEXICAN NETWORK OF PEOPLES AFFECTED BY MINING (REMA), MEXICO
31. AMERICAN WORLD JEWISH SERVICE (AJWS), USA
32. UNITED FOR MINING JUSTICE, CANADA